



FACT SHEET

Former Naval Surface Warfare Center -
White Oak
May 18, 2000

SITE 3 – PISTOL RANGE LANDFILL

BACKGROUND

The Pistol Range Landfill is located in the eastern half of the former Naval Surface Warfare Center-White Oak (NSWC-White Oak) property, directly north of Dahlgren Road and the Monroe Loop (see figure on back). The landfill is about 1.1 acres in size with a stream, Westfarm Branch, flowing to the south along its western edge. Some areas of exposed waste/fill are visible in the stream. The landfill slopes gently to the west and becomes steep near Westfarm Branch.

The Pistol Range Landfill operated as a landfill from the late 1940s until the mid 1970s. Fill materials such as construction debris, shop turnings, drums, and soil were pushed into the stream valley of Westfarm Branch from Perimeter Road. Wastes reportedly disposed of in the landfill include solid wastes, ordnance cases, solvents, oils possibly containing polychlorinated biphenyls, sodium nitrate, and miscellaneous metallic objects. Some of these contaminants are considered hazardous wastes and can pose a threat to human health and the environment. An estimated 8,000 gallons of solvents and oils were reportedly disposed of at the site during a 30-year period. The landfill is estimated to contain 20,000 cubic yards of waste/fill.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Site investigation activities related to Site 3 have included the Initial Assessment Study (1983), the Confirmation Study Verification Phase (1985), the Remedial Investigation (1991), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Assessment (1990), the Design Verification Study (1995), the Environmental Baseline Survey (1995), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (1999), and the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (2000). These documents are available at the White Oak Public Library.

PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

A removal action to clean up the site is occurring at Site 3, which includes the excavation and offsite disposal of the landfill wastes. The soils beneath the landfill wastes will be studied following the completion of the removal action. Risks to human health and the environment as a result of the presence of the residual contamination (if any) will also be evaluated. In addition, the portion of Westfarm Branch that borders the site will be restored and wetlands affected by the removal action will be replaced.

Inorganic and volatile organic contamination have been identified in groundwater in the vicinity of Site 3 with concentrations exceeding Federal and state drinking water standards and/or levels used for determining risks to human health. Inorganic compounds include metals, such as lead or arsenic, that often occur naturally in the soil. Trichloroethylene, a common solvent used to clean machinery and electronic equipment, is an example of a volatile organic compound. No significant surface soil, sediment, or surface water contamination was identified at the site.

The need for groundwater treatment at Site 3 will be addressed during the completion of the Operable Unit 1 investigation in 2000. Treatment plans to address groundwater contamination (if any) will be developed during 2001.

